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ABSTRACT

Title VI provides federal funds to states under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to contribute to the improvement of elementary and secondary education programs in public and private schools. A school district may use Title VI funds to supplement, but not supplant, local funds to expand existing programs or add new programs. Title VI funds are earned based on the school-age population, considering both total enrollment and numbers of students identified as low-income based on free or reduced-price lunch counts. In 1996-97, the Austin Independent School District (AISD) in Texas had an allocation of $367,227 in addition to about $32,000 rolled forward from the previous school year. This report describes programs funded by Title VI in the AISD. Title VI funds supported a half-time Coordinator of Volunteers to provide support for campus recruitment, retention, and recognition of community volunteers. Title VI funds also provided library resources for public schools and a number of services, especially teacher evaluation funds, for private schools. The AISD spent Title VI funds on two visiting teachers who provided services to 693 at-risk students, including attending discipline hearings. The largest portion of Title VI funds was allocated to Reading Recovery programs in the district's elementary schools. Title VI funds were also used to provide tuition for 13 eighth and ninth graders to attend summer school. (Contains one table and four references.) (SLD)

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Austin Independent School District

FEEDBACK

Title VI 1996-97

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INTRODUCTION

Title VI provides federal funds to states under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended by Public Law 103-382 in 1994. Title VI is intended to contribute to the improvement of elementary (including preschool) and secondary educational programs in both public and private nonprofit schools and institutions. According to Public Law 103-382, Title VI, Section 6001 (b), the purpose of Title VI programs is to:

1. Support local education reform efforts which are consistent with and support statewide reform efforts under Goals 2000: Educate America Act;
2. Support state and local efforts to accomplish the National Education Goals;
3. Provide funding to enable state and local educational agencies to implement promising educational reform programs;
4. Provide a continuing source of innovation and educational improvement, including support for library services and instructional and media materials; and
5. Meet the special educational needs of at-risk and high-cost students.

A school district receiving Title VI funds must use those funds to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would be made available in the absence of Title VI funds. *Federal funds may not be used to supplant local funds.* School districts may use Title VI funds to expand existing programs and/or add new programs, including the addition of staff and the acquisition of materials and equipment that would not otherwise be available from state and local funding sources. *In no case, however, may a school district supplant local funds by replacing local funds with Title VI funds.*

States earn Title VI funds based on their school-aged population. Local school districts' Title VI entitlement is based on the number of students enrolled in the public and participating private nonprofit schools and the number of students who have been identified as low-income based on free or reduced-price lunch counts in both the public and participating private nonprofit schools. AISD's 1996-97 allocation, based on AISD's 1995-96 enrollment of 73,185, was $367,227, in addition to $32,664 rolled forward from 1995-96, for a total of $399,891. A total of $376,326 was allocated to the targeted assistance areas Title VI funds can support. The remaining $23,565 in funding was allocated for management and evaluation of Title VI. The Program Summary presents the allocation, expenditure, number of students served and staff funded, and cost per student/staff for each Title VI program.

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1996-97 TITLE VI
PROGRAM SUMMARY

Title VI Component	Allocation From TitleVI*	Actual Expenditure	Number of Staff Funded	Number Of Students Served	Cost Per Student Or Staff**
Coordinator of Volunteers	$30,877	$30,774	1 Staff	—	$30,774
AISD Library Resources	$56,799	$53,583	—	73,556****	$.73
Private Nonprofit Schools	$19,810	$17,068	—	4,012	$4.25
Visiting Teachers	$65,035	$70,676***	1 full-time staff 1 part-time staff	—	$35,338
Huston-Tillotson Summer Bridge Program	$10,149	$2,080	—	13	$160
Reading Recovery	$193,656	$188,934	6 Staff 1 Tutor	—	$26,991
TOTAL	$376,326	$363,115	10 Staff	77,581 Students	—

* Figures reflect Title VI allocations only. Programs may receive additional funds from other sources. Total cost per student, therefore, may be higher.
** Cost is the expense over the 1996-97 District per student expenditure of $5,329.
*** Additional funding needed for this program was deducted from unused funds.
**** End of school year enrollment.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS

COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS

During the 1996-97 school year, Title VI allocated $30,877 and expended $30,774 for a half-time Coordinator of Volunteers to provide support for campus recruitment, retention, and recognition of community volunteers. The duties of this position included development and distribution of materials, volunteer recruitment, maintaining a central database of volunteer hours, establishing ongoing communication with other area volunteer agencies and working with community organizations for support of campus needs.

During the 1996-97 school year, the Coordinator of Volunteers reported that 2,245 volunteers donated 47,751 hours to AISD high schools, 1,974 volunteers donated 35,494 hours to AISD middle schools, and 8,928 volunteers donated 262,102 hours to AISD elementary schools. Using the national volunteer value of $13 per hour (B. Franke, personal communication, 10/97), volunteers donated $4,489,511 worth of their time to AISD.

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Volunteers who tutored students received five training sessions. The Coordinator of Volunteers met with school vertical teams in the fall to train schools on using the resource manual which lists available volunteers. In the spring, the Coordinator of Volunteers and school vertical teams met again to look at both successes and failures during the 1996-97 school year and recommend changes for the 1997-98 school year. The Coordinator of Volunteers also held seminars to demonstrate to schools how best to use volunteers.

Library Resources

Title VI allocated $56,799 and expended $53,583 for all AISD elementary and secondary campuses to purchase library resources for the purpose of improving the quality of instruction. Schools may purchase books, software, computers, CD ROMs, maps, globes, and audio-visual materials with their Title VI allocations. These materials are labeled as Title VI to indicate their funding source.

Private Nonprofit Schools

During the 1996-97 school year, Title VI allocated $19,810 and expended $17,068 for 16 private nonprofit schools. By law, Title VI funds are available through AISD to nonpublic, nonprofit schools within AISD boundaries. Private nonprofit schools are contacted each spring to determine if they would like to participate during the upcoming school year. Applicants must meet a number of eligibility requirements relating to compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws and nonprofit status. Funds are then allocated to approved applicants on a per-pupil basis for purchase of items selected by schools. All purchases are made through AISD, and the District retains title to, and exercises administrative control of, all equipment and supplies.

Private nonprofit school administrators are not required by AISD to report evaluation findings on the use of Title VI funds. However, administrators responding to a Title VI survey (N=16) reported using from one to five methods to evaluate the effectiveness of these funds, the most common of which was a teacher survey and/or teacher evaluation.

Visiting Teachers

During the 1996-97 school year, Title VI allocated $65,035 and expended $70,676 for two Visiting Teachers. One full-time and one part-time teacher provided support services for AISD students at two high schools (Bowie, McCallum), two middle/junior high schools (Bailey, Kealing), and five elementary schools (Blackshear, Campbell, Kiker, Kocurek, Maplewood, and Menchaca). As part of the Department of School Support Services for AISD, the mission of the Visiting Teacher program is to support campuses in achieving success for all students by connecting district and community resources and providing direct and indirect services to students, parents, and staff.

Visiting Teachers provided by AISD are required to have a Master's degree and certification in teaching, counseling, or social work. In addition, Visiting Teachers are required to have a minimum of three years experience in classroom teaching or social work. Visiting Teachers are also required to have a thorough knowledge of AISD policies and academic requirements, knowledge of social services and programs available to meet a range of health, income, and social services needs, as well as knowledge of state, local, and federal laws affecting the lives of students and families. During the 1996-97 school year, Visiting Teachers were also required to attend discipline hearings for youths considered for removal to the

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district's Alternative Learning Center (ALC). Attendance will not be required during the 1997-98 school year due to changes in district policy.

Overall, the two Visiting Teachers provided services for 693 students and attended 211 discipline hearings during the 1996-97 school year. Visiting Teachers provided a variety of services such as participation in an interagency council which met to provide information about available programs, tutoring 4th grade students in TAAS test-taking skills and relaxation techniques, designing a behavior plan for Blackshear Elementary School, providing a dropout report with recommendations for McCallum High School, individual counseling, and working with numerous local agencies to provide assistance to AISD students and their families whenever needed.

Reading Recovery

Title VI allocated $193,656 for the Reading Recovery program during the 1996-97 school year and expended $188,934. Title VI funds were used for four Reading Recovery teachers at four elementary schools and for a part-time Reading Recovery Teacher leader and a part-time secretary. Title VI funds were allocated also to Boone Elementary School for one tutor to watch the classrooms of Reading Recovery teachers while they were instructing Reading Recovery students. Findings from the Reading Recovery program 1996-97 evaluation are published in the 1996-97 Title I Report (OPE Publication Number 96.04).

Huston-Tillotson Summer Bridge Program

Title VI allocated $10,149 and expended $2,080 to provide tuition for 13 AISD 8th and 9th grade students to attend the Huston-Tillotson College Summer Bridge program. Courses such as Biology and World Geography were offered, as well as TAAS preparation in Mathematics and English. Of the 13 students who attended, 12 students passed their summer school course.

Tuition was paid for 16 students by Title VI, although only 13 attended the summer school program. Therefore, AISD will be credited for three 1997-98 summer scholarships.

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